

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 099856

43

ORIGIN NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 DODE-00 IO-03 EUR-10 PM-03 NSC-10

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 MC-02

ACDA-10 EB-03 OMB-01 GAC-01 /077 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ RA: AMMUNDY: CMH

5/24/73 EXT 20865

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R 241617 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 099856

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MASS, CY, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH CYPRIOT M-72' S

1. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH DEPT OF ARMY AUTHORITY ON M-72,
WE BELIEVE THERE ARE THREE POSSIBILITIES CONCERNING THE
TWENTY OR SO M-72' S WHICH ARE NOW WITHOUT ROCKETS.

A. THE WEAPONS HAVE BEEN FIRED, MOST LIKELY IN SOME
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PAGE 02 STATE 099856

TRAINING OR FAMILIARIZATION EXERCISE.

B. EXPENDED (OR MUCH LESS LIKELY UNEXPENDED)
LAUNCHERS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FROM SOME SOURCE(SALVAGE
YARD, ORDNANCE DEPOT, MILITARY UNIT), TRANSPORTED TO
CYPRUS, AND THEN SUBSTITUTED FOR AN EQUIVALENT NUMBER OF
M-72' S WHICH ARE STILL IN THE HANDS OF TURKISH CYPRIOTS.

C. THE M-72' S HAVE BEEN DISMANTLED AND THE ROCKETS
REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF TURKISH CYPRIOTS. THIS PROCESS IS
EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS BUT IS POSSIBLE. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE
TO JERRY- BUILD SOME KIND OF LAUNCHING MECHANISM OR TO
INSTALL ROCKETS IN NEW OR USED LAUNCHERS. THIS PROCESS
WOULD ALSO BE EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS AND ACCURACY IS LIKELY
TO BE GREATLY REDUCED. AS EMBASSY ANKARA POINTS OUT THE
ROCKETS COULD BE CONFIGURED AS BOOBY- TRAPS AND DETONATED
WITH TNT OR SOMEFORM OF ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT.

2. EXAMINATION OF THE LAUNCHERS SHOULD REVEAL WHETHER
OR NOT THEY HAVE BEEN FIRED OR DETONATED SINCE THE
LAUNCHERS WILL SHOW SIGNS OF BURNT PROPELLANT RESIDUE.
IF THEY HAVE BEEN FIRED, THERE WOULD BE NO SURE WAY OF
DETERMINING WHETHER POSSIBILITY (A) OR (B) ABOVE IS
MORE LIKELY. HOWEVER, IF THE EXPENDED AND UNEXPENDED
LAUNCHERS AND THE CASES IN WHICH THEY ARE PACKED SHOW
IDENTICAL LOT NUMBERS, IT WOULD TEND TO INDICATE THAT
POSSIBILITY (A) IS MORE LIKELY. IF THE LOT NUMBERS
DIFFER OR THERE ARE SEVERAL LOT NUMBERS REPRESENTED ON
WEAPONS AND CASES, SUBSTITUTION, POSSIBILITY(B), WOULD
SEEM MORE LIKELY. RUSH

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE099856
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AMMUNDY: CMH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730552/aaaajjq.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NE
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980227
Subject: TURKISH CYPRIOT M-72' S
TAGS: MASS, PGOV, CY, TU
To: ANKARA
ATHENS
LONDON
NATO
NICOSIA
USDOCOSOUTH
USEUCOM

USUN NEW YORK

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005